

October 21, 1846.

Dr. J. B. S. Jackson in the Chair.

The Chairman read a letter from the Secretary of the Massachusetts Historical Society, communicating a vote, that a collection of Plants belonging to that Society be presented to the Boston Society of Natural History, on certain conditions. It was voted, that the Curator of Botany be requested to confer with the officers of the Massachusetts Historical Society, to receive the plants, and give the requisite receipts.

Dr. Gould communicated the following descriptions of the Shells of the Exploring Expedition.

HELIX EURYDICE. Testa tenuis, depresso-pyramidata, acutissimè carinata, pallidè virens, lineâ castaneâ volvente suprâ et infrâ picta, subtus planulata, umbilico lato et profundo perforata : spira anfr. 5-6 vix convexis, apice rotundato : apertura transversa, acutè triangularis ; labro acuto. Lat. $\frac{1}{2}\frac{3}{8}$, alt. $\frac{1}{4}\frac{1}{8}$ poll. *Hab.* Tongataboo.

Approaches *H. Cressida*, but is much thinner, nearly transparent, of a much smoother texture at surface, flatter beneath, and the coloring seems to be very uniform. The color of the animal is also different. Its shape is almost precisely that of *H. elegans*, though much larger. It is also like *H. planorboides*, Lesson, (*H. solarium*, Quoy), which is very much smaller and destitute of fillets.

HELIX SUBTILISSIMA. T. minuta, fragilissima, nitidissima, lenticularis, plano-convexa, imperforata : spira planulata, anfr. 5 planis, arcuè volutis ; ultimo acutissimè carinato : apertura — (fracta). Lat. $\frac{1}{8}$, alt. $\frac{1}{16}$ poll. *Hab.* Maui, Sandwich Islands.

This little pellucid shell, though imperfect, is so well marked by its compressed lenticular form, sharp carination and numerous whorls, that I venture to pronounce it a new species.

HELIX (NANINA) SCORPIO. Testa rotundata, depressa, rubro-castanea, fasciis radiantibus atro-purpureis tessellata, subtus haud convexa : spira depressa, anfr. $4\frac{1}{2}$ convexus. Lat. $\frac{3}{8}$, alt. $\frac{2}{3}$ poll. *Hab.* Feejee Islands.

The above characters were drawn from the figure of a shell which looks somewhat like *Cyclostoma tigrinum*. Its inhabitant is most peculiar ; having, besides the usual anal lappet of Nanina covering the mucus pore, six other smaller ones between this and the shell, arranged in a double series along the back.

HELIX (NANINA) RUIDA. Testa fragilis, obconica, obliquè striata, epidermide tenui subconcentricè et confertissimè rugosâ induta, coloribus sordidè viridibus marmorata, subtus valdè convexa, perforata : spira anfr. $4\frac{1}{2}$ planulatis, ultimo supernè angulato : apertura lunata ; labro acuto ad umbilicum reflexo. Lat. $\frac{1}{2}$, alt. $\frac{3}{8}$ poll. *Hab.* Feejee Islands.

The specimens collected appear to be immature, but the peculiar minute wrinkling of the epidermis, somewhat like that on *Planorbis albus* and *hirsutus*, may serve to characterize it.

HELIX (NANINA) IRRADIATA. T. conico-globosa, tenuis, im-perforata, albida, suprâ purpureo radiatim tessellata, lineis incrementi acutis confertim striata, subtus rotundata : spira anfr. 6 convexus, ultimo sub-angulato : apertura transversa, lunata ; labro acuto, ad columellam incurvato, vix reflexo. Lat. $\frac{1}{4}$, alt. $\frac{3}{8}$ poll. *Hab.* New Holland.

A singularly-colored Helix, in shape more like *H. Cubensis* than any other which I recollect. The colors are arranged somewhat like those on *Bulinus vexillum*.

HELIX (NANINA) RUBRICATA. Testa globoso-conica, solida, vix perforata, suprâ nitida, rufo-castanea, striis radiantibus gregatim dispositis et striis volventibus decussata, infra glaberrima, livido-castanea, ad centrum declivis : spira anfr. 6 convexus, amplis ; suturâ submarginatâ : apertura semilunaris ; fauce lividâ ; labro simplici, ad columellam reflexo, albo. Lat. 1, alt. $\frac{3}{8}$ poll. *Hab.* Lebouka, Feejee Islands.

In shape and size like *H. zaleta* and *H. irregularis* ; but in all other respects it is like *H. velutina*, Sowb., to which it is very closely allied. Perhaps it is *H. Nouletii*, Le Guillou.

HELIX LURIDA. Testa globoso-conica, depressa, glaberrima, nitida, livido-castanea, infrà pallescens, ad umbilicum minutum declivis: spira anfr. 6 convexis, radiatim et obtusè striatis, ultimo prope aperturam subangulato; suturâ impressâ, marginatâ: apertura lunata, fauce lividâ; labro acuto, ad umbilicum reflexo, albo. Lat. 1, alt. $\frac{1}{2}$ poll. *Hab.* Feejee Islands.

Groups with the preceding species to which it is very similar, but differs essentially in the want of revolving striæ, its carinated periphery, and light-colored umbilical region. It probably belongs to *NANINA*.

HELIX CALVA. Testa tenuis, depresso-globosa, nitida, pallidè stramineo-virescens, arcetè umbilicata: spira anfr. 5 haud turgidis, striis incrementi obsoletis; suturâ haud impressâ, marginatâ: apertura semilunaris; labro simplici, acuto, ad umbilicum paulum reflexo. Lat. $\frac{4}{5}$, alt. $\frac{1}{2}$ poll. *Hab.* Feejee Islands.

Similar to the preceding, but smaller and lighter-colored, and is plainly distinguished by its smooth, shining, rounded spire, similar to the summit of *H. Moricandi* or *H. lychnuchus*. This must also be a *NANINA*.

Dr. G. also announced the receipt of another letter from Dr. F. W. Cragin, of Surinam, accompanying various contributions to the Cabinet, and proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. C. Voted unanimously.

Dr. Cabot mentioned, that having heard that Terns were breeding on the islands of Beverly harbor, he had visited those islands, and found the birds there, in great numbers. The Arctic Tern and the Roseate Tern were observed, besides great numbers of the common species. He believed this was the most northern limit at which the Roseate Tern had been found, on this side of the Atlantic.

Dr. Cabot also mentioned, that he had observed, this season, abundance of Horse Mackerel (*Temnodon saltator*) in Beverly harbor, twenty or more at a time. He believed that this fish had not usually been seen in shoals. The appearance presented by their motion through the water, precisely resembled that of the sea-serpent, as described by observers.

ADDITIONS TO THE CABINET.

A large collection of Shells, principally from the Maranec River, was presented by Dr. B. B. Brown, of St. Louis, and the thanks of the Society were voted to the donor.

November 4, 1846.

Dr. Gould was chosen Chairman.

Dr. Storer communicated the following notes :

“ In September last, a specimen of *Palinurus perciformis* was found in our harbor. This is the first specimen I have known to be taken north of Cape Cod.”

“ A specimen of *Epeira* ——— was found by my son, Horatio Storer, at Cambridge, on the 27th September. Hentz mentions only North Carolina as its habitat. It agrees most perfectly with Hentz's figure.”

Dr. Gould gave descriptions of the following species of *VITRINA*, from the collection of the Exploring Expedition.

VITRINA RUIVENSIS (COUTHOUY MS.) Testa haliotiformis, transversè subquadrata, depressa, papyracea, pellucida, nitida, chlorata, gradibus ætatis striata : spira vix conspicua, anfr. uno rapidè crescente ; apice laterali : apertura faciem inferiorem adequans ; labro propè spiram membranaceo ; columellâ laxè intro spiram volvente et eam penitus exhibente. Lat. $\frac{2}{4}\frac{5}{0}$, alt. $\frac{4}{4}\frac{0}{0}$ poll. *Hab.* Madeira, near the summit of Pico de Ruivo, 6210 feet altitude. A very large and well-marked species.

VITRINA NITIDA. Testa depresso-globosa, heliciformis, tenuissima, pellucida, nitidissima, lævigata, succineo-viridis, imperforata : spira anfr. 4 convexis, ultimo amplo ; apice subcentrali, prominente ; suturâ excavatâ : apertura transversa, subcircularis ; peristomate inflexo ; columellâ arcuatâ, usque ad apicem perspicuâ. Diam. $\frac{1}{4}\frac{9}{0}$, alt. $\frac{5}{4}\frac{0}{0}$ poll. *Hab.* Madeira, Roche de Empeña, 4240 feet elevation. A most elegant and brilliant species.

VITRINA CAPERATA. Testa helicoidea, depresso-globosa, ad peripheriam obtusè angulata, tenuis, sub-opaca, striis incrementalibus conspicuis et rugis obliquis ramulosis, præcipuè supernis, exarata, dilutè fulvo-cornea, arcuè perforata: spira anfractibus $3\frac{1}{2}$ convexis, citò crescentibus; suturâ profundâ; apice subcentrali: apertura sub-circularis; labro simplici, ad umbilicum everso; columellâ, callum simulante, secundum spiram introeunte. Diam. max. $\frac{9}{25}$, alt. $\frac{1}{5}$ poll. *Hab.* Kauai, Sandwich Islands.

A large and substantial species, easily distinguished by the branching wrinkles of the surface, which perhaps answer to blood-vessels.

VITRINA MARCIDA. Testa sigaretiformis, tenuis, sub-opaca, flavo-viridis, depresso-orbicularis, tenuiter striata, sub-perforata: spira anfr. ad 3, convexiusculis, ultimo amplo, declivo; apice sub-centrali; suturâ bene impressâ: apertura transversa, elliptica; labro plerumque membranaceo. Diam. $\frac{2}{4}$, alt. $\frac{7}{10}$ poll. *Hab.* Madeira, Roche de Empeña; height of 4200 feet.

Differs from *V. Lamarckii*, especially in having more whorls. The animal is still more decidedly different.

VITRINA TENELLA. Testa parva, *V. pellucidæ* simillima, succinea, sub-perforata, gradibus ætatis conspicuis striata: spira rotundata, apice subcentrali, anfr. 3, convexis, declinantibus; suturâ excavatâ: apertura sub-circularis; labro antrorsum arcuata. Diam. $\frac{1}{3}$, alt. $\frac{1}{11}$ poll. *Hab.* Kauai, Sandwich Islands.

It is larger than *V. pellucida*, more opaque, and the aperture is larger.

VITRINA ROBUSTA. Testa helicoidea, transversa, depresso-globosa, sub-valida, polita, perlucida, dilutè flavo-viridis, lineis incrementalibus regularibus, obtusis, striata: spira obtusa, anfr. 3, ultimo magno; apice subcentrali; subtus rotundata: apertura rotundata; margine sinistro supernè reflexo, rimam umbilicalem parvum formante. Diam. max. $\frac{1}{2}$, alt. $\frac{1}{4}$ poll. *Hab.* New South Wales.

This is about the size and form of *V. nigra*, Quoy, and is almost exactly like *V. Freycineti*, Fer. It is more globose and brilliant than *V. marcida*, and seems to be built more firmly than any other species.

November 18, 1846.

Dr. C. T. Jackson, Vice President, in the Chair.

Dr. Gould continued his descriptions of Shells collected by the U. S. Exploring Expedition.

SUCCINEA ROTUNDATA. Testa parva, tenera, sub-opaca, hemispherica, flavo-virens, concinnè striata : spira ferè nulla, intus aperta, anfr. $2\frac{1}{2}$, ultimo amplissimo : apertura circularis, posticè angulata, testam ferè adequans ; margine columellari obliquo, subrecto, conspicuè plicato, et callo lato induto. Long. $\frac{4}{10}$, lat. $\frac{7}{10}$, alt. $\frac{2}{10}$ poll. *Hab.* Mountains of Oahu, Sandwich Islands.

This, with the two following species, are remarkable for their hemispherical form and large apertures, with the animal much too large for the shell, and belong to *Helicolimax*, Fer. Resembles *S. aperta*, Lea.

SUCCINEA CEPULLA. Testa parva, tenuissima, pellucida, nitida, succineo-virens, rotundato-elliptica, depressa, sinistrorsum rotundata, dextrorsum declivis, longitudinaliter striata et liris inequalibus volventibus arata : spira ferè nulla, anfr. $2\frac{1}{2}$: apertura amplissima, ovalis, ad basim latè rotundata, ad columellam arcuata, leviter plicata ; intus metallica. Long. $\frac{1}{2}$, lat. $\frac{7}{10}$, alt. $\frac{1}{10}$ poll. *Hab.* Hawaii.

Depressed and without spire like the preceding, but is larger, more transparent, less spherical, has spiral furrows, and the aperture is peculiarly widened posteriorly by an outward sweep of the lip.

SUCCINEA PUTAMEN. Testa magna, depressa, globoso-elliptica, tenuis, lævis, striis incrementalibus et striis volventibus tenuiter decussata, fulvo-cornea, ad peripheriam sub-angulata : spira ferè nulla, anfr. vix 2 : sutura linearis : apertura paginam inferiorem ferè adequans, rotundato-ovalis ; margine columellari sub-plicato. Long. $\frac{3}{8}$, lat. $\frac{1}{2}$ poll. *Hab.* Upolu.

A remarkable shell, resembling the half of a bird's egg. Distinguished from *S. rotundata* by its larger size, revolving striæ, and angular periphery.

SUCCINEA VESICALIS. Testa tenuissima, fragilis, lucida, late ovata, depressa, gradibus ætatis undulata, epidermide stramineâ induta : spira anfr. 3, ultimo magno, patulo, alteris spiram parvam formantibus : apertura subovalis, ad basim latè rotundata, longitudinis $\frac{4}{5}$ equans ; plicâ columellari conspicuâ. Long. $\frac{4}{10}$, lat. $\frac{3}{8}$; alt. $\frac{2}{3}$ poll. *Hab.* Mauna Kea, Hawaii.

About the shape and size of *S. rubescens*. A delicate, very ample species.

SUCCINEA LUMBALIS. Testa mediocris, ovato-conica, tenuissima, sublucida, pallidè virens, leviter striata, subtus gibbosa : spira acutè conica ; anfr. 3 convexiusculis, ultimo ventricoso, versus suturam declivi : apertura rotundato-ovata ; columellâ valdè arcuatâ, callo indutâ ; plicâ mediocri. Long. $\frac{9}{20}$, lat. $\frac{5}{20}$, alt. $\frac{4}{20}$ poll. *Hab.* Kauai, Sandwich Islands.

Its dull aspect, conical spire and ventricose form are its distinctive marks. It resembles small specimens of *Limnea catascopium*, Say.

SUCCINEA HUMEROSA. Testa ovata, depressa, sub-rhombea, sublucida, striis incrementalibus rugosa, sulcis raris volventibus interdum arata, dilutè virens, et interdum rubricans : spira anfr. 3, ultimo permagno, posticè sub-angulato : apertura sub-ovalis, posticè amplificata ; labro dextrorsum decurrente ; plicâ columellari conspicuâ. Long. $\frac{3}{5}$, lat. $\frac{3}{8}$, alt. $\frac{1}{5}$ poll. *Hab.* Mountains of Tahiti.

About the size of *S. amphibia*, and has a peculiarly broad aperture on account of the outward sweep of the posterior portion of the lip, and may be known by the angular shoulder on the last whorl.

SUCCINEA CROCATA. Testa pinguis, sub-solida, sub-opaca, ovato-globosa, saturatè crocea, lineis incrementi exilibus et interdum lineis inordinatis volventibus striata : spira brevis, acuta, anfr. vix 3, convexis, suturâ profundissimâ discretis, ultimo ventricoso : apertura magna, rotundata-ovata ; columellâ carinatâ sub-incrassatâ, haud sinuoso : intus calcarea. Long. $\frac{5}{8}$, lat. $\frac{1}{2}$ poll. *Hab.* Upolu.

May be easily known by its large size, inflated form, and its peculiar color. The spire is remarkably contorted.

SUCCINEA CANELLA. Testa parva, sub-solida, opaca, ovata, impolita, cinnamomea, leviter striata: spira conspicua; anfr. 3, ventricosis, suturâ valdè constrictâ discretis: apertura parva, ovato-rotunda; peristomate incrassato, postice sub-continuo; columellâ arcuatâ, haud plicatâ. Long. $\frac{1}{3}$, lat. $\frac{2}{3}$ poll. *Hab.* Maui, Sandwich Islands.

Very much like *S. avara*, Say, and *S. caduca*, Mighels; but it is less elongated, more solid, and without a columellar fold.

Mr. Bouvé exhibited a series of fossil Shells of the Genus *Strophomena*, from the blue limestone of Ohio, brought by Mr. Bartlett, from Cincinnati.

He stated that a Committee of the Western Academy of Natural Sciences had lately examined a large number of specimens of this genus from the Blue Limestone, and had become satisfied that far too many species had been formed from the individuals found in that deposit. Instead of nearly twenty species, they have come to the conclusion that they may all be reduced to seven.

Prof. Agassiz exhibited a Fish, which he showed to be the *Huro nigricans* of Cuvier, though it differed in several particulars, which he pointed out, from the figures and descriptions usually given of that fish, which were drawn from a defective specimen. It is the same species described by De Kay under the names of *Centrarchus fasciatus* and *C. obscurus*.

Dr. Cabot exhibited a specimen of the Shovel-fish, from Ohio river.

It was about 12 inches in length. Prof. Agassiz remarked, that, young as it was, the yolk-sac was absorbed. In this respect, the sharks and other cartilaginous fishes differ from the osseous, the former retaining the sac till a comparatively advanced period of their growth. The sturgeons resemble the osseous fishes in this respect, which confirms the correctness of Prof. Agassiz's classification of this tribe with the osseous fishes, though their skeleton is as soft as that of the cartilaginous fishes.